

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method of making substantially spherical calcium carbonate particles comprising adding a surfactant to a source of calcium carbonate to obtain substantially spherical calcium carbonate particles having a particle size range between about 0.1 and about 1 micron.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method of making substantially spherical calcium carbonate particles comprising adding carbon dioxide to a mixture comprising lime, water, and a surfactant to obtain substantially spherical calcium carbonate particles having a particle size range between about 0.1 and about 1 micron.

Claims 25-29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method of preparing titanium dioxide pigment particles comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing an aqueous slurry of base titanium dioxide particles;
- b) adding a surfactant and a source of calcium carbonate to the slurry; and
- c) precipitating calcium carbonate on the base titanium dioxide particles under conditions so as to form substantially spherical shaped calcium carbonate particles having a particle size range between about 0.1 and about 1 micron on the base titanium dioxide particles, wherein the base titanium dioxide particles have a particle size range between about 0.1 and about 0.5 microns.

Claim 31 (original): A method according to claim 30, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid homopolymers, polyacrylic acid copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 32 (original): A method according to claim 31, wherein the surfactant comprises a polyacrylic acid homopolymer or copolymer comprising at least one comonomer selected from the group consisting of maleic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid, acrylamide, acrylonitrile, ethylene, propylene, styrene and esters of the acids, wherein the homopolymer or copolymer has been partially or completely neutralized with a neutralizing agent having a monovalent group.

Claim 33 (original): A method according to claim 30, wherein the surfactant is a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of tetrapotassium pyrophosphate, sodium polyphosphate, tetrasodium pyrophosphate, sodium tripolyphosphate, potassium tripolyphosphate, sodium hexametaphosphate, phosphoric acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 34-44 (canceled)

Claim 45 (currently amended): A paint, plastic or paper comprising the a pigment made by the method according to claim 30 steps of:

- a) preparing an aqueous slurry of base titanium dioxide particles;
- b) adding a surfactant and a source of calcium carbonate to the slurry; and
- c) precipitating calcium carbonate on the base titanium dioxide particles under conditions so as to form substantially spherical shaped calcium carbonate particles having a particle size range between about 0.1 and about 1 micron on the base titanium dioxide particles, wherein the base titanium dioxide particles have a particle size range between about 0.1 and about 0.5 microns.

Claims 46-48 (canceled)

Claim 49 (new): A method according to claim 23, wherein the substantially spherical calcium carbonate particles are precipitated on base particles of anatase or rutile titanium dioxide.

Claim 50 (new): A method according to claim 23, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid homopolymers, polyacrylic acid copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 51 (new): A method according to claim 23, wherein the surfactant comprises a polyacrylic acid homopolymer or copolymer comprising at least one comonomer selected from the group consisting of maleic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid, acrylamide, acrylonitrile, ethylene, propylene, styrene and esters of the acids, wherein the homopolymer or copolymer has been partially or completely neutralized with a neutralizing agent having a monovalent group.

Claim 52 (new): A method according to claim 23, wherein the surfactant is a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of tetrapotassium pyrophosphate, sodium polyphosphate, tetrasodium pyrophosphate, sodium tripolyphosphate, potassium tripolyphosphate, sodium hexametaphosphate, phosphoric acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 53 (new): A method according to claim 23, wherein the substantially spherical calcium carbonate particles have a particle size range between about 0.1 and about 0.5 microns.

Claim 54 (new): A method according to claim 24, wherein the substantially spherical calcium carbonate particles are precipitated on base particles of anatase or rutile titanium dioxide.

Claim 55 (new): A method according to claim 24, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid homopolymers, polyacrylic acid copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 56 (new): A method according to claim 24, wherein the surfactant comprises a polyacrylic acid homopolymer or copolymer comprising at least one comonomer selected from the group consisting of maleic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid, acrylamide, acrylonitrile, ethylene, propylene, styrene and esters of the acids, wherein the homopolymer or copolymer has been partially or completely neutralized with a neutralizing agent having a monovalent group.

Claim 57 (new): A method according to claim 24, wherein the surfactant is a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of tetrapotassium pyrophosphate, sodium polyphosphate, tetrasodium pyrophosphate, sodium tripolyphosphate, potassium tripolyphosphate, sodium hexametaphosphate, phosphoric acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 58 (new): A method according to claim 24, wherein the substantially spherical calcium carbonate particles have a particle size range between about 0.1 and about 0.5 microns.